



## April 2017 Speaker

**Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 pm.** Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30-6:45pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Speaker:** Bart O'Brien, Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Park, Berkeley, CA  
*Flora of the Oaxaca Region of Mexico*

This month we welcome old friend and former WHS board member, Bart O'Brien. Bart will take us on a journey through the regions of Oaxaca, Mexico to share the flora observed on his most recent visit there. Bart has spent most of his life studying native flora and evaluating its suitability for use in CA gardens. He has authored numerous articles and collaborated in several native plant gardening books as well as holding key positions in the CA Native Plant Society and Southern CA Horticultural Society. He will share his passion and some of his extensive knowledge with us at our April meeting.



**Bart O'Brien**

photo:<http://www.pacifichorticulture.org>



**Agaves in Oaxaca, Mexico**

Photo:[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/pPFTdxDraZs/UX70Aie60pI/AAAAAAADpI/\\_ZAlkMxLw1M/s1600/agaves-en-oaxaca.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/pPFTdxDraZs/UX70Aie60pI/AAAAAAADpI/_ZAlkMxLw1M/s1600/agaves-en-oaxaca.jpg)

Bart completed degrees in environmental planning at U.C. Davis and landscape architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and joined the staff of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA in 1990. As Director of Horticulture and Special Projects at RSABG he participated in planning, restoration, and landscape projects for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers and watersheds in Southern California. During his tenure there he also presented numerous lectures, hosted symposia, and developed and managed a new native plant horticulture education and outreach program. In 2013 he returned to Northern CA to continue his study and promotion of native plants as Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in the Berkeley hills.

*Join us for dinner with Bart O'Brien on  
April 12th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.  
Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: [alivensilk@aol.com](mailto:alivensilk@aol.com), 408-251-2742

## March 2017 Speaker Notes

Yes, dear WHS members, it's almost time to plant a garden. If you attended this month's meeting, surely you left with some great tips from Jeff Rosendale who spoke about creating beauty with appropriate Mediterranean climate plants and less lawn.

Jeff and his family own and operate Sierra Azul Nursery in Watsonville, locally well-known and visited for their beautiful, expansive demonstration gardens. Jeff shared his knowledge and general philosophy of garden design with us, using skillful combinations of slides, oral presentation, and useful plant handouts.

Our speaker suggested using less or no lawn when redesigning landscapes. His signature garden features one or more mounds, using three basic shapes: kidney, teardrop, and oval. Jeff likes mounds, feeling that they break up the monotony of a former flat lawn area, as well as providing good drainage for chosen water-wise plants. Jeff prefers using about 15 (or fewer) kinds of plants, feeling that some repetition leads to more continuity and attractiveness. He likes to group plant selections into four categories: tall, medium, low, and accent.

One of the other nuggets of knowledge our speaker imparted was about the construction of paths between mounds. Jeff feels that pathways are important element for unifying the different mounds and for allowing the gardener to easily maintain the plants and beds. Our speaker also touched on the more technical elements of mound construction, including height, metal edging, weed cloth, drip irrigation, and mulch.

At the end of his presentation, Jeff briefly talked about the plants he brought from his nursery, which he offered for sale at a generous discount. There was no discounting the quality of this presentation however, as I am sure that we all left with some useful knowledge (and maybe some great plants) we can use this spring. ~Mark McCabe

## March 2017 Plant Notes



*Teucrium scorodonia* 'Crispum Marginatum'  
photo: <http://media.growsonyou.com>

**Roberta Barnes** from brought in:

*Teucrium scorodonia* 'Crispum Marginatum' (Curly wood sage) – This bulletproof evergreen groundcover grows everywhere, sun or shade (zones 7-9) in well-drained soil. The spreading mound gets to be 12-18" tall and 2' wide. The 2" oblong opposite light green leaves are soft and have ruffled edges that are flecked with white on the rim. Spikes of cream flowers begin flowering in the summer. Roberta bought her 1st one at Foothill College 20 years ago. Drought tolerant once established.

*Heuchera* 'Opal'  
(Opal coral bells or alumroot) – This easy and tough hybrid was given to Roberta by Elizabeth Garbett. It was created in 1953 at Rancho Santa Ana Gardens and is a cross of *H. sanguinea* and *H. maxima*. It grows in sun or shade (zones 4-9) in clay rich soil and thrives under oak trees. A perennial, it gets to be 2' tall and wide. It has emerald green leaves and its pink buds open to white flowers on 2' stems starting in the spring. It is hardy to 15°.



*Heuchera* 'Opal' photo: ©2009 by Ken Gilliland,  
<http://www.theodorepayne.org>



*Boronia megastigma* 'Hot Chocolate'  
photo: <http://www.suncrestnurseries.com>

**Katie Wong** from San Jose brought:

*Boronia megastigma* 'Hot Chocolate' (Brown boronia) – This evergreen perennial grows in full to part sun (zones 8-9) in well-drained and moist soil. It gets to be 2-3' tall and wide and is native to Australia. The small heath-like leaves/needles are a light green color. The small bell-shaped burgundy flowers (yellow on the inside) flower in the winter and spring and have a wonderful fragrance. This is a short-lived plant for Judy almost dying every year, but she loves the smell and just replaces it. I have also lost this cultivar because the soil really needs to be kept moist. However, I also love the smell and I can walk into a nursery and smell its fragrance 20 feet away. I'm growing 'Jack Maguire's Red' and this is my 2<sup>nd</sup> year so I'm keeping my fingers crossed. It is hardy to 15-20°.

**Barbara Worl** from Palo Alto brought:

*Echium candicans* (Pride of Madeira) – She got this fast growing evergreen shrub from Western Hills Nursery in Occidental. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) and is drought tolerant. It gets to be 6' tall and wide. Upright stems hold whorls of gray-green leaves; which may cause skin irritation. Tall flower spikes with hundreds of blue flowers start blooming in the spring. Her plant is putting out little buds now and should be blooming in April. It is hardy to 25°.



*Echium candicans*  
photo: <http://wpcontent/uploads/2011/07/echium.ia>



*Pandorea pandorana* 'Golden Showers'  
photo: <http://www.smgrowers.com>

*Pandorea pandorana* 'Golden Showers'

(Yellow wonga-wonga vine)– This is a vigorous evergreen vine with dark green leaves that are bronze tinged as they emerge. The tubular yellow flowers with reddish brown markings hang in pendulous clusters throughout the spring. It grows well with average garden water in full sun or light shade. It is hardy to 20-25°.

**Bracy Tiede** brought this in for Dick Turner who gardens in SF:

*Canarina canariensis* (Canary Island bellflower) - This summer dormant scrambling perennial grows in full sun to part shade (zones 9b-11) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 6-10' tall and wider. The opposite triangular leaves with dentate margins resemble an

arrowhead. It starts growing from 2-3" tubers and new shoots start appearing in September making their way through shrubs. Pale orange bell shaped 3" flowers with a wonderful fragrance start appearing in October. It took many years for hummers to discover the nectar in them at Dick Turners' garden. Dick bought them at the SF Flower and Garden Show 18 years ago. Prune in June when it goes dormant and possibly plant with winter dormant shrubs. It is hardy to 28°



*Canarina canariensis*  
photo: <http://www.strangewonderfulthings.com>



*Salvia leucocephala*  
photo: <http://www.davesgarden.com>

**Richard Tiede** from San Jose brought: *Salvia leucocephala* (White headed sage) - This stunning perennial comes from mountainous cloud forest in Ecuador. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) with rich, well-drained soil and plenty of water. It gets to be 6' tall. The maroon-red flowers against the silvery grey, downy leaves make for a stunning contrast. Richard got it from Flowers by the Sea (a mail order nursery) more than 1 year ago. It puts out thin branches and might fall down. Richard cuts off the low performing flower heads. He has about 1 dozen flower spikes of maroon-red flowers that have been blooming since December and will continue thru March.

**Judy Wong** from Menlo Park brought:

*Albuca spiralis* (Corkscrew albuca) – This fast growing South African bulb likes full sun (zones 8-11) and well-drained soil. It gets to be 8” tall and wide. The narrow green leaves with glandular hairs; usually have a spiral form resembling a corkscrew. However, this year the leaves didn’t form coils and Judy thinks it might be due to too much rain. The vanilla scented green flowers have pale yellow/cream margins with green stripes and start blooming in the spring. It is summer dormant.



*Albuca spiralis*  
photo: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/145311525448960649/>



*Sparaxis tricolor*  
photo: <http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org>

*Sparaxis tricolor* (Wandflower, Harlequin flower) – Judy got this bulb from Roberta Barnes at a WHS meeting. It grows better in full sun but will also grow in part shade (zones 9-11), in well-drained soil. The monocot leaves grow to 12-18” tall. The gorgeous looking tri-colored flowers have a bright yellow center and begin flowering in the spring. It makes for a good cut flower.

Seeds in 2010. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. The light green fan-shaped leaves get to be only 8” tall. Large reddish-purple flowers with 6 tepals start blooming in the spring. It took five years for it to bloom. It is happy this year as it’s blooming. It is hardy to 30°.

*Sparaxis grandiflora ssp. grandiflora*– Judy bought seeds for this rare bulb from Silverhill



*Sparaxis grandiflora ssp. grandiflora*  
photo: <http://www.plantzafrica.com/>



*Ginkgo biloba* seedlings  
photo: Nancy Schramm

**Nancy Schramm** from Gilroy brought: *Ginkgo biloba* seedlings - These or Trident maple seedlings can be used for pre-pre-bonsai. Both of these plant’s trunks/stems can be intertwined and as they expand they will fuse together. In bonsai you want fat trunks to increase the appearance of age.

**Leslie Dean** from Mountain View brought:

*Roldana petasitis* (Velvet groundsel, *Cineraria petasitis*, Butterbur-leaved cineraria) – This large sprawling evergreen shrub grows in full sun (zones 9-11) however it is doing well for Leslie who has it growing in filtered shade (it's great for her shady front yard) and it still has a few flowers on it. It gets to be 8-10' tall and wide; however Leslie cuts it back every winter and it is only 4' x 4' in her dry garden. It has alternating large oval bright green leaves with shallow lobes, and the leaves feel like velvet. Originally from Mexico it belongs to the Asteraceae (Sunflower) family and has bright yellow daisy flowers starting in the late winter thru early spring. It likes medium water and is hardy to 20-25°. ~Ana Muir



*Roldana petasitis*

photo:<http://images44.fotki.com>

## 28 Years Ago

Western Hort met on April 12, 1989 to see “*Namaqualand in Bloom*...an impressive short audio-slide show created by Rose Hand, a free-lance photographer and one of our members. She describes herself as a “plant freak”. In addition she will show a few slides from the presentation she did at the UC Santa Cruz Australian Plant Symposium. This is a rare opportunity to see examples of wildflowers from both Africa (*Namaqualand* is in the south) and Australia.”

Exciting news—*Successful Perennials for the Peninsula*—the book written and produced by WHS members premiered at the April meeting. Still relevant today, “It is about 120p of practical information about growing more than 230 species of perennials in our area.”

“The San Francisco Landscape Garden Show will be held at Fort Mason, April 19-23.” That is even later in the month than this year’s show, which is itself about two weeks later than last year’s show. In 1989, the WHS display organized by Elizabeth Garbett featured “plants from around the world that are grown in California gardens”.

New: members searching for rare plants were able to put a notice in the newsletter—“one plant per person”. I’d like to revive that service. For instance, does anyone grow *Verbascum* ‘Letitia’? Dad got it in 1975 from Victor Reiter (and lost it) but then got it again in 1980 from Western Hills. I lost it in the move from Los Gatos to Gilroy. Like father like daughter?

Plant Notes shows that many different interesting plants were on display: Sherry Austin brought *Cantua buxifolia* and *Myrrhinium atropurpureum*; David Rodal showed *Chorizema ilicifolium* and a collection of clematis: *C. montana rubens* & *C. m. superba*, *C. lawsoniana* ‘Henryi’, ‘Nelly Moser’ & ‘Mme. Edouard Andre’, *C. macropetala* and *C. chrysocoma v. spooneri*; Jan Mountjoy presented a selection of acid-lovers—*Calycanthus floridus*, *Enkianthus campanulatus* and *Pieris forrestii*; Dick Dunmire brought 3’+ blossoms of *Wisteria floribunda longissima* and what was then newly available, “superior strains of *Alstroemeria*”; Day Boddorff was in at the beginning of those growing proteas in the Bay Area, showing *P. cynaroides*; Bob and Diana Plummer met “the challenge of raising hostas in this snail-beset area...by mounting evening patrols with flashlight and heavy foot...and are growing” *Hosta fortunei albo-picta*, *H. sieboldiana*, *H. lancifolia*, *H.* ‘Honeybells’, ‘Thomas Hogg’, ‘Frances Williams’, ‘Craig’s Temptation’ & ‘Nakiana’; Betsy Clebsch showed three forms of “the most pungently scented of hardy geraniums” *G. macrorrhizum*, *G. macrorrhizum* ‘Album’ & *G. x cantabrigiense*, and finally, Lyn Dearborn shared *Corydalis lutea* which “may be a little invasive but it is charming while it’s infiltrating.”

## Upcoming Meetings

**May 10, 2017** – Daxin Liu, Mountain View, CA, *Fragrant Plants Throughout the Seasons*

**June 17, 2017** – Our Annual Potluck Picnic, Sierra Azul Nursery, Morgan Hill, CA

## *Plant Table*

Our April Plant Table will feature a silent auction of Hot Plant Picks from the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. Bring cash or your checkbook and bid high and bid often! All proceeds benefit WHS and allow us to continue to fund great programs.

## *Horticultural Happenings*

**Regional Parks Botanic Garden Plant Sale:** Saturday, April 15, 10am to 3pm, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA. Bring your own small wagon or boxes. No parking fee, no entrance fee. Plenty of fun and expert advice! Entrance to the sale will be at the Botanic Garden's west gate on Anza View Road via Wildcat Canyon Road. For more information, including a plant list available shortly before the sale, visit <http://www.nativeplants.org>. \*Memberships may be purchased starting at 8:30 am at the Botanic Garden on April 15, member sale 9am-10am.

**Going Native Garden Tour:** South SC Valley gardens, Saturday, April 22, 10am to 4pm, North SC Valley and Peninsula: Sunday, April 23, 10am to 4pm. 60 native gardens in the Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula will be open to the public at no cost. To participate and obtain a garden tour guide, register online prior to the tour dates. Volunteer help is also needed. Tour volunteers work one 3-hour shift on tour day at one of the gardens either as a docent or as a greeter. Tour volunteers are invited to Garden Preview events throughout the year and receive a custom GNGT T-shirt with artwork that changes yearly. To register for the tour, volunteer, or for more information: <http://gngt.org/GNGT/HomeRO.php>

**Garden Conservancy Open Day, East Bay:** Saturday, April 22, 10am-4pm. Explore four private gardens in San Francisco's East Bay open to the public for self-guided tours as part of the Garden Conservancy's national Open Days program. **It's Mark Delepine's (of Cal Hort) Open Days debut - come out and cheer him on!** No reservations required; rain or shine; \$7 per garden; children 12 & under free. Discount tickets are available online in advance, they never expire and can be used for all Open Days nationwide. For garden locations and more information visit [www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org).

**California Native Plant Society Wildflower Show:** Saturday, April 29, 10:00am to 4:00pm, West Valley College, Saratoga. The show will feature hundreds of species of wildflowers and native plants. Expert botanists and gardeners will be on site to describe different samples and answer questions. There will be free lectures on wildflower identification and photography, pollinators, choosing native plants for local gardens, and the Vasona Creek Restoration Project. A variety of activities for children will be available as well. More information: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/wildflower-shows>

**Garden Conservancy Open Day(s), Peninsula:** SAVE THE DATES! Sunday, May 7, 10am-3pm and Saturday May 13, 10am-4pm. Explore private gardens in Atherton, Palo Alto and Redwood City open to the public for self-guided tours as part of the Garden Conservancy's national Open Days program. For garden locations and more information visit [www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org).

**Royal Horticultural Society** awards are given annually. The awards for this year were presented on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at a ceremony in London by RHS President Sir Nicholas Bacon. *The Veitch Memorial Medal, to recognise contributions to the science, art and practice of horticulture* was given to **William McNamara**, developer and current president of **Quarryhill Botanical Garden**. As an experienced plant collector and conservationist, Mr. McNamara has made almost 40 expeditions to

the Far East. The garden, which he helped to develop, contains one of the largest collections of scientifically documented, wild-sourced, Asian plants in North America and Europe. **Quarryhill Botanical Garden** is located in Glen Ellen, CA and is open to the public. For more information: <http://quarryhillbg.org/home.html>

The fifth edition of *Where on Earth* is here. This book, published by HeyDay Books, is “A Guide to Specialty Nurseries and Gardens in California”. Some of the book’s editors, long-time Cal Hort members: Nancy Conner, Demi Bowles Lathrop and Barbara Stevens, will be on hand at our April meeting to sell copies of the book.

### *Kitazawa Seeds Celebrates 100 years*

The Kitazawa Seed Company in San Jose was founded in 1917 by Gijiu Kitazawa. Mr. Kitazawa worked many years as an apprentice for a seed company in Japan before immigrating to the US. From the start Kitazawa sold many kinds of seeds from domestic and foreign sources that were new to the US market. The Company also began selling and promoting their own line of packaged seeds of Asian vegetables. The Asian vegetable seeds were sold primarily to customers who wanted to grow Asian vegetables in order to prepare traditional Japanese dishes. The seeds were sold in the familiar manila packets with green ink that are still used today. Gijiu also built a thriving bulk seed business in the developing farming areas of California and Oregon selling to predominantly Japanese-American farmers.

From 1942 to 1945 Kitazawa Seed Company was forced to abandon the business due to WWII. The Kitazawa family, along with all other Japanese-Americans, were moved and put into Relocation Camps during that time. Gijiu restarted the business after the war. Many of his customers had relocated due to land ownership changes. This is when Kitazawa Seed Company began selling and shipping seeds across the United States.

Kitazawa Seeds continues today to produce what are now more familiar oriental vegetable seeds including edamame, Napa cabbage, daikon, and kabocha. They offer over 500 seed varieties that include traditional and heirloom vegetables of Japan.

**NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:** I am looking for the person or persons who bought Bailey Journals at the December meeting. I bought the March 1958 journal and discovered that it was the start of an interesting 4 part series on Liberty Hyde Bailey’s journeys throughout the world. I am looking to borrow the subsequent issues with his travels through the Carribean, S. and C. America, the US and Mexico. I will repay you by including a synopsis in future newsletters. Please bring to April meeting or contact me using information at the last page.

#### **Officers and Board Members:**

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon

Vice President: Judy Wong

Secretary: Patricia Larenas

Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tiede

Treasurer: Chris Egan

Other board members: Janet Hoffmann, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

#### **About membership in Western Hort:**

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to “Western Horticultural Society” to: Western Horticultural Society, **PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA, 94042. (Note: we have a new PO address)**

**Membership Rates:** A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership is \$50 for two or more members at the same address and a Student rate is \$20.

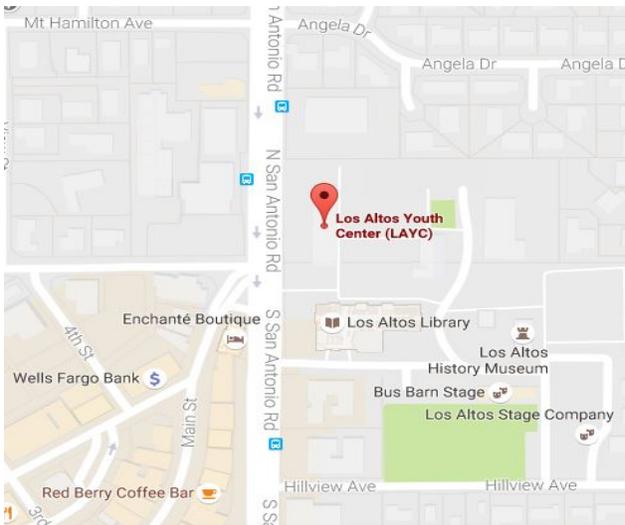
**Please visit our website at** [http://westernhort.org/membership\\_form.pdf](http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf) for a membership form.

To contact us, please send email to: [westernhortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westernhortsociety@gmail.com) or snail mail to address above.



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VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



**MEETING LOCATION**  
**Los Altos Youth Center,**  
**1 North San Antonio Rd.**  
**Los Altos, CA 94022**

Main entrance and parking are on the north side of the building. Turn off San Antonio at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept. Doors open at 7:00 pm. and meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated!

**Newsletter Submissions**

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior. Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Janet@hoffmann.net](mailto:Janet@hoffmann.net), or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana CT, Campbell, CA 95008